

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9835

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1425

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR/ON
SUBJ: PANAMA CANAL TREATY - P.M. PINDLING'S BILATERAL WITH
PRESIDENT

ARA FOR TODMAN ONLY, S/AB FOR BUNKER/POPPER ONLY, NSC FOR
PASTOR ONLY

REF: STATE 219477

1. IN COMMENTS TO ME AND TO AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE SCHWARTZ
PRIME MINISTER PINDLING EXPRESSED "GREAT PLEASURE" AT
OPPORTUNITY OF HAVING MET AND TALKED WITH THE PRESIDENT AND
THIS SENTIMENT WAS QUITE OBVIOUSLY AND DEEPLY FELT. WHILE
MORE RETICENT IT WAS CLEAR TOO THAT MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY WAS
EQUALLY PLEASED. (LATTER, HOWEVER, WHO CONSIDERS HIMSELF
INTELLECTUALLY SUPERIOR TO P.M. - AND INDEED ANY AND ALL -
WAS NEVERTHELESS SMARTING OVER FACT THAT IT WAS P.M. WHO
WAS BASKING IN THE LIMELIGHT AND DOING THE TALKING IN THE
OVAL OFFICE RATHER THAN HIMSELF.

2. P.M. WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO GET THE SIX
BILATERAL TOPICS WHICH CONSTITUTED GREATER PART OF MEETING
- A) THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL CARRIER ON THE NY-NASSAU
RUN, B) U.S. BASES IN THE BAHAMAS, C) RAISING THE DUTY FREE
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EXEMPTION ON GOODS PURCHASED ABROAD BY U.S. CITIZENS, D)
REPEAL OR AMENDMENT OF SECTION 602 OF THE TAX REFORM ACT
OF 1976 REGARDING TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING OVERSEAS
CONVENTIONS, E) THE NEGOTIATIONS OF FISHERIES BOUNDARIES AND
F) THE DELINITION OF MARITIME - ECONOMIC BOUNDARIES - OFF
HIS CHEST AND TO RECEIVE A SYMPATHETIC AND HIGHLY KNOWLEDGE-
ABLE SOUNDING. IN THIS REGARD IT IS HOPED THAT HE MORE FULLY

UNDERSTANDS THE IMPROBABILITY IF NOT IMPOSSIBILITY OF
OBTAINING BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE - AS OPPOSED TO BASE
RENTAL - FOR OUR FACILITIES IN BAHAMAS.

3. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT - AN ADDITIONAL AIR CARRIER ON THE N.Y.-
NASSAU RUN - HE DID SPECIFICALLY EXPRESS CONCERN AS TO
WHETHER HE HAD MADE HIMSELF SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AS TO WHAT HE
FELT WAS NEEDED, I.E., AN ADDITIONAL CARRIER (PREFERABLY
AMERICAN RATHER THAN INCREASED DELTA SEATS. IN A DISCUSSION
WITH AMBDES. SCHWARTZ IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS WHITE HOUSE
MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT HE STRONGLY UNDERLINED THAT SIMPLY
INCREASING DELTA'S SERVICE WOULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF "GETTING
ADDITIONAL BODIES" TO NASSAU AS WHAT IS NEEDED IS A SECOND
CARRIER WHICH WILL LEAVE N.Y. AT A DIFFERENT TIME, ENHANCE
COMPETITION AND IN ADDITION GENERATE MORE PROMOTIONAL
ACTIVITY. LIKEWISE IN A CONVERSATION WITH ME HE STRESSED
IMPORTANCE OF U.S. INDIRECT ASSISTANCE TO BAHAMAS' NUMBER
ONE INDUSTRY - TOURISM - WHICH WOULD ALLOW BAHAMIANS TO
HELP THEMSELVES NOW SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO COME TO
U.S. OR ANY PLACE ELSE SEEKING DIRECT ASSISTANCE AT SOME LATER
DATE. FINALLY HE WAS APPREHENSIVE ON WHETHER HE HAD BEEN
SUFFICIENTLY FORCEFUL IN BRINGING TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION
URGENCY OF MATTER STRESSING THAT ACTION MUST BE COMMENCED
NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER IN ORDER TO HAVE A NEW CARRIER ON
BOARD FOR WINTER TOURIST SEASON.

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RM BOTH HE AND ADDERLEY ALLOWED AS HOW THEY EXPECTED
"MOVEMENT" AND "FOLLOW UP" ON ALL ISSUES BROACHED AND IT WAS
TACTFULLY POINTED OUT THAT ON A GOODLY NUMBER THE BALLS WERE
AND REMAINS IN THEIR COURT.

5. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS PROBABLY THE MOST
EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS YET
RECEIVED WITH BOTH NEWSPAPERS AND NEWLY INAUGURATED TV
STATION COMPETING TO SEE WHO COULD SHOW MORE PICTURES OF
PINDLING AND PARTY WITH THE PRESIDENT. AS A NASSAU CARTOONIST
WHO IS SOMETHING OF A LOCAL LEGEND NOTED UNDER A DRAWING OF
THE P.M. AND ADDERLEY WITH THE CAPITOL DOME IN THE BACKGROUND
"WE REACH DER BIG LEAGUES NOW." THAT PROBABLY SUMS UP THEIR
OWN VIEWS AND CERTAINLY EXPRESSES THE FEELINGS OF THE GREAT
MAJORITY OF THE BAHAMIAN PEOPLE. THEY WERE PROUD OF THE
MEETING IN AND OF ITSELF BUT AT THE SAME TIME HOPE THAT IT
YIELDS SOME TANGIBLE RESULTS.

TAYLOR

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PBOR, EWWT, XM, XL, (CARTER, JIMMY), (PINDLING)
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